

## **Historic, Archive Document**

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.





U. S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE  
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY

JAN 22 1969

CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

RURAL AREAS  
DEVELOPMENT

# NEWSLETTER

January 1969

No. 98

## HUD AID TO INITIATE REALLY COMPREHENSIVE RURAL AREA PLANNING WORK.

For the first time financial aid from the Department of Housing and Urban Development will be available to encourage comprehensive multi-county planning and development in non-metropolitan districts of the United States, according to officials of HUD and USDA.

The new financial assistance authorized under the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, will enable local leaders, government and private, to establish and operate planning and development programs that cover both town and country areas outside metropolitan centers. (Initial information on this program appeared in Sept. 1968 issue of RAD, No. 95).

Planning and development under this assistance will attempt to meet the needs of non-metropolitan districts applying for help. Ideally, the new help will make use of existing plans for an area and will fill any gap, so that comprehensive area planning -- planning that includes everything from the placement of future airports to pollution abatement and the constructive preservation of open space -- is the end result.

The HUD grants will be made to state agencies to help district planning boards acquire a staff or contract for work in achieving these services:

- \* Preparation of a general plan of development for the multi-county area.
- \* Planning assistance for sub-jurisdictions too small or too sparsely populated to afford adequate planning services on their own.
- \* Better coordination of plans and programs of various government units working in the district area.
- \* Technical aid to county and municipal government officials in programing budgeting, fiscal administration, purchasing, personnel administration and other aspects of modern local government.
- \* Assistance to local general governments, special districts, and citizen organizations in translating plans into action.

Missouri recently became the first state to receive a grant under this program -- a grant that financed two-thirds of the initial stages of a two-year comprehensive planning effort.

Copies of HUD guidelines which explain the requirements for applicants under the new program are available from the Community Development Information Center, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington, D.C. 20410.

Information is available, too, through local Technical Action Panels and Regional HUD offices.

#### DEPARTMENTS OF AGRICULTURE AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT BEGIN JOINT RURAL HOUSING EFFORT

Secretary of Agriculture Orville L. Freeman and then Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Robert C. Weaver, recently signed a comprehensive agreement under which the USDA will administer significant new authorities to upgrade rural housing provided by the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968.

This will help low-income residents in open country or in communities of 5,500 or less to achieve home ownership -- suitable, adequate housing for themselves and their families.

The Farmers Home Administration, with nearly 1,700 local offices throughout rural America, was designated to act as agent for HUD's Federal Housing Administration in making available that agency's interest supplement loans authorized by the new law.

The interest supplement loans will be funded by local private lenders at Federal Housing Administration interest rates. Loans will be available for purchase of existing houses, either new or renovated, or for construction of individual homes.

In instances where families do not have enough monthly income to meet the full monthly interest payment on the loans funded by private sources, part of the interest can be paid by the Federal credit agency.

A two-part formula will determine whether an applicant qualifies for an interest supplement -- a formula based on the size of family and total income as compared with the amount of prospective annual installments of principal, interest, real estate taxes and insurance.

Recomputations will be made by the lender at the end of each two-year period, based on any changes in the family income situation.

#### OREGON DESIGNATES PLANNING DISTRICTS

Oregon's 36 counties were recently grouped into 14 districts by Governor Thomas McCall's Planning Section. The designations were made to facilitate area planning and improve administrative efficiency in carrying on programs having an impact on areas larger than single counties or other geopolitical subdivisions.



Local preferences and state and Federal agency consultations were given consideration in designating the 14 planning districts. This action made Oregon about the 30th state in which a governor has subdivided the total state into planning districts.

The Governor ordered all state agencies, boards, committees, commissions, and departments conducting business at the local level through districts or regions -- and organizations which are now or may be planning programs requiring a regional approach -- to consider their activities in terms of the new 14 planning district arrangement insofar as practical. As is true elsewhere, area planning is designed to supplement existing plans for sound land and resource use by conventional governmental subdivisions within the districts.

#### NEW SLIDE SET AND FILMSTRIP CATALOG AVAILABLE FREE

The USDA now can send a new slide set and filmstrip catalog free upon request. It lists 83 titles, 21 of which are new this year. Many of the presentations will interest groups active in rural areas development. The titles include: "Co-ops for Rural Areas," "Farmers Cooperative Service," and "Revitalizing Rural America." A section of home improvement subjects include a wide range of construction and home repair information. Subject matter areas listed are beautification, conservation, farming, food, forestry, marketing, nutrition, recreation, and rural-urban balance. The slide sets and filmstrips cost about \$6.00 apiece. To obtain the catalog write to Photography Division, Office of Information, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

#### PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST FROM USDA

New information on rural housing loans is now available on changes wrought by the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968. Copies are available of the revised Farmers Home Administration leaflet, "Rural Housing Loans," PA-476, which briefly explains the rural housing program.

\* \* \* \* \*

The December issue of Soil Conservation (Vol.34, No.5) features several articles on conservation and its relationship to economic growth in rural areas. Special coverage is given rural industry, the town of tomorrow, the saving of jobs in flood ravaged areas and examples of the economic growth from resource conservation and development projects.

\* \* \* \* \*

A report probing the consequences of congestion in the Nation's large metropolitan areas and of economic problems in rural America was issued recently by the National Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations. Title: "Urban and Rural America: Policies for Future Growth." A few copies are available upon request.

\* \* \* \* \*

A limited supply of requests for single copies of the above publications are available from the RAD Newsletter upon request to: Editor, RAD Newsletter, Office of Information, Room 458-A, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

- 4 -

#### PENN SOIL RC&D BUILDS ON LAND AND WATER ASSETS

The Penn Soil Resource Conservation and Development Project, one of two RC&D Projects in operation in Pennsylvania, is building its plans on its major economic asset -- the probability of soon becoming a major recreation area for the population centers of Pittsburgh, and Erie, Pa., and Youngstown, Ohio.

The project area's three counties of Crawford, Mercer, and Venango are already laced with a good primary road system, including interstate roads. These make the area accessible to commuters, second home owners, and vacationers and are a consideration in attracting industry and in encouraging business development. All tend to boost the area economy.

The area's water resources are the primary target for improvement. Planned structural improvements are underway in many of the project area's 180 likely water impoundment sites. In some, flood control dams, or larger multi-purpose reservoirs -- which will also serve recreational purposes -- are being constructed.

Strip mined areas are being regraded, reforested, or reseeded to grass and legumes to control runoff. A Conservation-Education Center is in the early stages of development on an ideal site adjoining the rapidly developing Sandy Creek State Park site. These are a few of many progressive undertakings evident in the three counties.

As one local leader noted recently, the Penn Soil Project is providing one vehicle through which local governmental and community leaders meet resource improvement and income development challenges. The local people are finding out that what's good for northwestern Pennsylvania, is ultimately good for them and their children, too.